Battle of The Hearts & Minds

Imam Anwar Al-Awlaki

The Battle of Hearts and Minds

A speech delivered by
Sheikh Anwar Al Awlaki – May Allah preserve him

Transcribed by

Dar Al Murabiteen publications

Preface

Praise is to Allah the Lord of the Worlds, and peace and blessings of Allah on His Messenger, his family, companions and those who follow them until the Last Day

To proceed

This is the transcription of a speech given by Sheikh Anwar Al Awlaki- May Allah preserve him, recently delivered after his release from the prisons of the Tyrants of Yemen early December in 2007.

Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaki was born in New Mexico. His parents are from Yemen, where he lived for eleven years and received the early part of his Islamic education.

He served as an Imam in Colorado, California, and later in the Washington, D.C. area where he headed the Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center and was also the Muslim Chaplain at George Washington University. Currently he resides in Yemen, where he was studying Shariah with prominent scholars, as he was banned from re-entering the United States despite being a U.S. citizen. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University, a M.A. in Education Leadership from San Diego State University and was working on a Doctorate degree in Human Resource Development at George Washington University being denied entry into the U.S. He authored many popular audio series including the "Lives of the Prophets", "The Hereafter" and "The Life of Muhammad". May Allah reward his efforts.

Care has been taken to transcript the speech in the most accurate manner possible. Some editions have been made only for the sake of the reader's convenience in the flow. Errors in sentence arrangements might have occurred due to the speech words and sentences as such.

And all aid is from Allah

Whoever spreads a good word has a share in the reward without the reward of the work being reduced. We encourage everyone to publicize the material so that all Muslims share the benefit of this work.

May Allah guide us to what pleases His Majesty!

May Allah forgive our errs and accept our worship

There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger, and we hold witness to that

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In the name of *Allah*, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

All praise is to *Allah* and peace and blessings on our Prophet *Muhammad* and his righteous companions and followers

Dear brothers and sisters

Assalamualaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.

All praise is to *Allah* the Lord of the Worlds, we ask *Allah* Almighty to accept all our efforts. We ask *Allah* Almighty that he provides us with beneficial knowledge.

اللهم انا نسئلك علما نافعا و نعوذ بك من علم لا ينفع

As was announced that the topic of this lecture is the "Battle of Hearts and Minds", and I started by, reading to you a quote from a report from Rand Institute in 2007 which states that:

"*The struggle under way throughout much of the Muslim world is essentially a war of ideas, its outcome will determine the future direction of the Muslim world*".

So there is the struggle of ideas going on, right now, in the Muslim world.
And according to the Defense department, the US Defense Department in its quadrennial defense review report

"*The United states is involved in a war that is both a battle of arms and a battle of ideas. A war in which, ultimate victory, will be achieved only when extremist ideologies are discredited in the eyes of their host populations and passive supporters* ".

So according to Rand and according to the Pentagon and truth fully so, there is a struggle of ideas going on in the Muslim world, but what is their position regarding this internal affair, this affair that concerns Muslims, this battle of ideas between those who want to follow Islam as it was reveled to *Muhammad* (peace and blessings of *Allah* on him), they want to follow Islam in its entirety and those who want to pick and chose from Islam, they want to follow Islam selectively. Now, this issue is not new with Muslims, In every age, there are *Ahl-Haq* (1), and there are those who want to deviate from the true path, through out our history this was a struggle that *Allah* destined to remain and it even existed among the believing nations before us.

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(1) Ahl Al Haq - people on the Right Path

For example, with *Banu Israel* (2), there were those who held on to the truth and then there were those whom *Allah* Almighty said about in Quran

يُحَرِّفُونَ الْكَلِمَ عَن مَّوَاضِعِهِ

"They change the meanings of the words" (3).

So, they would take the words of the Bible and they would change it. And some of that was done to please the authorities of the time, because we know that Bani Israel lived under various nations. For example they lived under the Roman rule, and that time the Romans were pagan. And they lived under the rules of the kings of Babel, and they were pagans too. And according to a story mentioned in *Tafseer* (4), that at a particular time some of the *Rabbis* of *Bani Israel* gave a *Fatwa* to the King of Babylon allowing him to have a forbidden relationship, but they gave him such a fatwa to please that king. So they changed the rule of *Allah* the Almighty, in order to please a human being!

So this conflict of ideas, that is going on in the Muslim world, what are these non-Muslims doing about it! According to the US news and World report,

"*Today Washington is fighting back after repeated missteps since the 911 attacks, the US government has embarked on a campaign of political warfare unmatched, since the height of the cold war. From military psychological operations teams and CIA covert operatives to openly funded media and think tanks, Washington is plowing tens of millions of dollars into a campaign to influence not only Muslim societies but Islam itself.*"

Now hear this again "The US is trying to change Islam itself!!! ". Without any shame, they are openly stating that we have a desire not only to influence the Muslim societies but we want to change the religion itself! Probably at the time of *Bani Israel* those *Rabbis* who were changing the book of *Allah* never dared to say so openly! These, without even hiding it, are saying that we want to change Islam, yes we do!

And then the article carries on to say that,

"*In at least two dozen countries, Washington has quietly funded Islamic radio and TV shows, course work in Muslim schools, Muslim think tanks, political workshops or other programs that promote moderate Islam. Federal aid is going to restore Mosques, 5:46 Quran even build Islamic schools*".

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(2) Banu Israel- Children of Israel
(3) (Surah Maida: 13)
(4) Explanation of the Quran (source is unknown)

Well as we see here, they are trying to promote this modern Islam, modern according to their definition, and they are spending millions of dollars to do so.

Bothers and sisters, when a Muslim, a true Muslim, hears this, he hears that non-Muslims who have no knowledge about the religion, who do not believe in *Allah* Almighty who don't believe in *Muhammad* (peace and blessings of *Allah* be upon him) and don't take *Quran* as the book of *Allah*, when a Muslim hears that such a people, are openly claiming that we want to change your religion, this should make any Muslim who has any love of *Allah* Almighty angry!

How dare you?! And who are you?! To tell us what Islam is and isn't. In fact we even find that President Bush is standing in front of the microphone, teaching us about Islam, giving us *Khutbah* (5) about Islam. In an address he gave in 2002, he asserted, "*Islam is a faith that brings comfort to a billion people round the world and has made brothers and sisters of every race it is a faith based upon love not hate*".

Now his statement is true, I mean that Islam is a faith that brings comfort to people around the world and it has made brothers and sisters of every race and is a religion that is based upon love not hate. I mean that the statement to some extent is right. But who is Bush to tell us what Islam is and isn't? Who gave him the authority, to speak for Islam?

And, praise is to *Allah* we found that some Muslims at the time were happy and proud that Bush has spoken in this way about Islam. But the issue shows the arrogance and the condescending view that these *Kuffar* (6) have, they think that we are in need of somebody to tell us what Islam is and what it isn't. In fact, this condescending view didn't go unnoticed even from some non-Muslim commentators.

One of them said, sarcastically that the

"*Political leadership collectively appears to have acquired an instant post graduate degree in Islamic studies enabling them to lecture the population concerning the true nature of Islam*".

In another report by Rand, and by the way, Rand is a sixteen hundred employee non-profit organization that provides analysis to the US Department of Defense. So it is connected to the Pentagon and some how Rand Cooperation has taken in liking, lately, on this issue of "Battle of minds and hearts" and they have written more than one publication on this topic. And I will, during this talk, quote from some of their publications.

In this report titled "*Civil democratic Islam*" by Sheryl Bernard, she is a Jew married to an apostate, it can't get any worse! Her husband is *Zalmai Khaleel Zad*, the apostate if he

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(5) Khutbah- Sermon
(6) Kuffar- Unbelievers

ever was a Muslim, who held some very high posts as you know in the US administration. He was an ambassador to the UN at one point, ambassador to Afghanistan, ambassador to Iraq, so they are putting him in some pretty sensitive posts!

So this Sheryl Bernard is his wife, she published her report, for Rand titled "*Civil Democratic Islam*" so from the title you can see what kind of Islam they want! What kind of Islam they want to force upon us! And by the way, they are willing to go to the extent of sending their armies to enforce on us their particular version of Islam that we are supposed to follow. Brothers, praise is to *Allah*, Muslims should stand up and unite against such arrogance!

Some of her recommendations, she said that, she is talking about these moderate Muslims

"***Publish and Distribute their works at subsidized costs***",

Before I go any further, who is the moderate Muslim, according to them? Well, they have even provided a list to define, who is a moderate Muslim and who is not; you know they have pretty detailed work! Let's see here who is the moderate Muslim according to them.

"***Characteristics of moderate Muslims*** " this is from Rand publication

1) Democracy

So a moderate Muslim is who believes in democracy and believes in the democratic system.

Now, there are some Muslims who adopt democracy and they say that *Shura* (7), the Islamic system of *Shura*, is similar to democracy, so we could use the term democracy as Muslims, in reality we believe in *Shura*, but they say it is more appealing for the West, when we talk about democracy, because they don't understand the Islamic concept of *Shura*. I am quoting to you what some Muslims believe and what some Muslims say. And they believe that they could get the aid and the assistance of the West to change the dictatorship that exists in the Muslim world if they mark themselves as people who want to bring in democracy and there is a serious problem with that, because

1) Democracy isn't Islamic, democracy is a system and Islam has brought us a completely different system. And a few in reality, believe in the system of the Islamic state and *Shura*, then say *Shura* call it what it is and don't call it democracy. That's number one.

2) This trick is not going to pass on these people at Rand because they have given a detailed definition of what democracy do they expect from a moderate Muslim!

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(7) Shura system- Islamic government system. The Shura Council is the council of elite Muslim scholars that are consulted by the Amir in the matters of the State

3) So they say and I am quoting here "*A commitment to democracy as understood in the liberal western tradition*"

So don't tell me democracy, as I understand it from Islamic point of view. No! That is not satisfactory! What we want is a commitment to democracy as understood in the western liberal tradition!

And they went further to say "*Support for democracy implies opposition to the concept of the Islamic state*"

So a moderate Muslim, is a Muslim who believes in a democratic system that is opposed to the Islamic state!

And then they say

"*It follows from the above that for a group to declare itself democratic, in the sense of favoring elections as the vehicle for establishing government as in the case of the present Egyptian Muslim brotherhood is not enough.*"

2) The second characteristic of this moderate Muslim is "*acceptance of non-sectarian sources of law*"

Meaning you follow man made law willingly and openly and they say here in the report "*the dividing line between moderate Muslims and radical Islamist is whether Sharia should apply*"

So to them any Muslim who wants *Sharia* (8) to apply, is an extremist and a moderate Muslim is a Muslim willing to accept French law or the British law or International law or call it whatever, as long as it is manmade.

3) The third characteristic of a moderate Muslim is "*respect for the rights of women and religious minorities*"

Now we believe in rights of women and we believe in rights of religious minorities, but not according to their definition. According to their definition, if there is an Islamic state that enforces hijab, that is extremism. If it charges the Christians and Jews jizyah (tax) they are extremists!

4) And then the fourth characteristic of a moderate Muslim is "*opposition to terrorism and illegitimate violence*"

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(8) Sharia'a- Laws revealed by Allah

So a Muslim who defends his lands, a Muslim who refuses occupation, a Muslim who wants to live according to Islamic rule, is an extremist. And the moderate Muslim is a Muslim, who invites the US army to come and invade his land, and is happy to follow manmade laws and is a person who has no honor and dignity to defend himself against aggression. This is a moderate Muslim!

So from what you see, a moderate Muslim to them, is in reality a non-Muslim! Because according to these four definitions, the definitions that they gave, this is Kufr this is not Islam! So from now on, I am not going to call it a moderate Muslim but I think a more appropriate term would be a "Rand Muslim".

Then they have a questionnaire, to hand over to a Muslim for him to answer, and then they would categorize him as being a moderate or being an extremist, and praise be to *Allah*, you would not fail to see the arrogance in all of this and the condescending view they have of Muslims, here they are testing our *Aqeedah* (9), they are testing our faith and they are giving us the scores!

The questionnaire is:

"***Does the group or individual support or condone violence, if it does not support or condone violence now, has it supported it or condoned it in the past***"

So they are not going to even leave you alone if you speak against violence now. If you have a history of violence in the past then you are going to be held responsible about that.

Next question,

"Does it support democracy, and if so does it define democracy broadly in terms of individual rights?"

Following question,

"Does it support internationally recognized human rights? "

Next question,

"Does it make any exceptions? For example, regarding freedom of religion"

So if you want to enforce the law of *Riddah* (10) then that's extremism!

"Does it believe that changing religions is an individual right?"

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(9) Aqeedah- Belief, Imaan, Faith
(10) Riddah- apostasy

So if a Muslim wants to become a Jew, if a Muslim wants to become a Christian, if a Muslim wants to worship a cow, or a monkey or a snake, they should have the right to do so! If a Muslim who was guided to the straight path and honored by becoming Muslim and he knew *Allah* the Almighty and he followed *Muhammad* (peace and blessings of *Allah* be on him), if such a person whom *Allah* Almighty has blessed, wants to worship a cow after that, he should have the right to do so!

"Does it believe that the state should enforce the criminal law component of Sharia?"

So there should be no *Hudood* (11)!

"Does it believe that the state should believe the civil law component of Sharia?"

Regarding for example, marriage issues, polygamy.

"Or does it believe there should be non-Sharia options?"

Praise is to *Allah*! What are we talking about here? In a vegetable market buying potatoes and onions?! What are you talking about non-*Sharia* options? No country in the world, gives you options regarding law. There is one law, regarding every issue. Here they want us to have options, so you walk in to court and you are handed out a multiple-choice question 'Which law do you want to follow'!!!

Allah Almighty says,

{ فَلاَ وَرَبِّكَ لاَ يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّى يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لاَ يَجِدُواْ فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجاً مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُواْ تَسْلِيماً }

Allah Almighty says in this ayah (verse)

"But no, by thy Lord, they can have no real faith until they make you judge in all disputes between them and find in their souls no resistance against your decisions but accept them with the fullest conviction" (12).

No Muslim is a Muslim, if he does not accept the law of *Allah* Almighty. No Muslim, is a Muslim if he refuses to accept the *Sunnah* of the Prophet of *Allah* (peace and blessings of *Allah* be upon him).

(11) Hudood- Plural of Hadd, legal limits that have punishments in the Islamic law
(12) (Surah Nisa'a 65)

And then the questionnaire carries on

"Does it believe that numbers of religious minorities should be entitled to the same rights as Muslims? Does it believe that a member of religious minority could hold high political office in a Muslim majority country?"

And we answer no to that question; they cannot hold high office because *Allah* Almighty says,

{ يأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُواْ لاَ تَتَّخِذُواْ بِطَانَةً مِّن دُونِكُمْ لاَ يَأْلُونَكُمْ خَبَالاً وَدُّواْ مَا عَنِتُّمْ قَدْ بَدَتِ الْبَغْضَآءُ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَمَا تُخْفِي صُدُورُهُمْ أَكْبَرُ قَدْ بَيَّنَّا لَكُمُ الآيَاتِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ }

Allah Almighty says,

"O you who believe, take not into your intimacy, those outside your ranks, they will not fail to corrupt you, they only desire your ruin. Rank hatred has already appeared from their mouths and what their hearts conceal is far worse. We have made plain to you the signs if you have wisdom" (13).

So this ayah does not allow us to take the Jews and the Christians as *bitanah*, as advisors, or to put them in high office.

The questionnaire carries on to state

"Does it believe that members of religious minorities are entitled to build and run institutions of their faith in Muslim majority countries?"

Now the Islamic law regarding that is they are allowed to have their original Synagogues and Churches but they are not allowed to build any new ones as according to the codes regarding Ahl Az Zimmah (14).

And then,
"Does it accept any legal system based on non-sectarian legal principles?"

So the whole thing is Kufr! That is what makes for them a moderate Muslim!

We go back to the recommendations of this Sheryl Bernard her first recommendation is,

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(13) (Surah Al-Imran 118)
(14) Ahl Az Zimmah- Zimmis, People of the Book living in the Lands of

Muslims under the Shariah ***"We should publish and distribute the works of Rand Muslims at subsidized costs"***

This is to promote the falsehood!

Her next recommendation,

"Encourage them to write for mass audiences and for the youth"

Because they recognize that the mass, the masses in the Muslim world can discern the truth and they know who speaks for them and who doesn't.

And they understand that the danger comes from the youth because the youth are the ones who stand for *al-Haq* (15). Ibrahim (peace and blessings of *Allah* be upon him) was a youth, when he destroyed the idols. And we know from the story of the cave in Surah *Kahf* (16), that those men who went in to the cave were youth. And we know from the *Seerah* (17) that the early followers of the Prophet (peace and blessings of *Allah* be upon him) were youth. So now she is encouraging the deviance of the youth!

Her next recommendation,

"Introduce their views into the curriculum of the Islamic education"

And they have already taken some concrete steps in that direction, they have ruined the curriculum in many Muslim countries, entire sections were wiped out and changed, any thing that talks about *Jihad*, talks about *Hudood*, talks about the rules of *Allah* have been taken out of the curriculum!

Next recommendation:

"Facilitate and encourage an awareness of their pre and non-Islamic culture, in the media and the curricula of relevant countries"

So for example lets revive the Pharoic civilization. Let us talk about the Pharaohs and lets present them in a positive light. And lets talk about their civilization and their achievements and the development that they achieved in those early days, let that take place, instead of talking about the Islamic civilization! And lets revive the local culture of the societies before Islam! So lets talk about pre-Islamic Arabia and Arabic nationalism! Lets talk about the history of the Berber people in the North Africa. And let us talk about the Raman and Greek history of *al-Sham* (Syria). That's why we see there is great attention given by archeologists to the pre-Islamic history of the Middle East. They talk a

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(15) Al Haqq- The truth
(16) Surah Kahf- Kahf meaning Cave, A chapter in the Quran
(17) Seerah- Life Story of the Prophet

lot about Mesopotamia and about Egypt in the time of the Pharaohs.
We should be ware of this, and we should not have any pride in our pre-Islamic history! It is all *Jahiliyyah* (18) and it shouldn't even be called a civilization because it is not! It is the path to *Jahannam* (19) it is *Zulumaat*, darkness upon darkness! And pharaoh is a symbol of evil; he should not be presented in any positive light.
When Prophet *Muhammad* (peace and blessings of *Allah* be upon him) passed with his army next to *Diyar Thamuud* (20), the dwellings of *Thamuud*, and some of the *Sahabas* (21) wanted to go in, the Prophet (peace and blessings of *Allah* be upon him) did not allow them to. Why? So that they should not be impressed with what they see and he told them

لا تدخلوا عليهم الا ان تكونوا باكين

"Do not enter into their dwellings except if you going to weep and cry (to the faith that befell them)". It should be taken as a lesson. And when they drew water out of the well in *Thamuud*, and they used it for the dough for the bread, Prophet (peace and blessings of *Allah* be upon him) told them to feed this dough to their animals and not to eat from it themselves, and not to drink from the well of the people of *Thamuud*. This is to establish a barrier between us and these *Kuffar*.

Her next recommendation,

"Encourage the popularity and acceptance of Sufism"

So she wants to promote *Tassawuf* (22) not because of her love of *Tassawuf* itself, but because of its position on *Jihad* (23) in the path of *Allah*, because of its non-violence, but would they promote for example the *Tassawuf* of *Umar al Mukhtar*, or some of the other movements that existed in North Africa or in the sub-continent?
And then under the title of *Confront and oppose the Fundamentalists* she has a few recommendations,

The first,
"Reveal their linkages to illegal groups and activities "

Next,
"Publicize the consequences of their violent acts "

Now, in war there are people who are gonna be killed and some of them are innocent,

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(18) Jahiliyah- Ignorance
(19) Jahannam- Hell fire
(20) Thammud- A tribe from those that passed who were destroyed by a punishment from Allah
(21) Sahaba- Companions
(22) Tasawuf- Sufism
(23) Jihad- Fighting in the way of Allah

that is the nature of war, but Muslims, try their best, to avoid killing innocents and there are strict rules that were laid out by the Prophet (peace and blessings of *Allah* be upon him) regarding *Jihad* in the path of *Allah*. For example, non-fighting women and elderly and the monks should not be killed, trees and plants should not be burnt and cut down etc.

What she is talking about here, is that we should take the unintentional accidents that happen with the *Mujahideen* (24) in the path of *Allah*, for example some innocent people will be killed, and let us blow it out of proportion and make a big deal out of it. And when the US army kills and bombs entire residences and kills everybody inside it women, children and elderly, keep that aside and not talk about it, and forget about it, and if it becomes revealed to the world then we will find an excuse! However, if the Muslims in their fight in the path of *Allah* commit a mistake or an unintentional accident happened lets make a big deal out of it and blow it out of proportion. And we see this happening all the time, to the extent that now it is imprinted in the minds of people, that Muslims are violent people who have no regards what so ever, for the rights of innocent human beings. Why? Because this is a fallacy that has been spread by the Western media, this is the agenda of the West; it is to put the Muslim in such a light. But any descent human being, with the least amount of intelligence, would be able to see, that it is the US now who is killing innocents in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Somalia, and else where throwing bombs indiscriminately in areas of Muslim population.

In the embargo that was placed on Iraq prior to the war, more than one million have died, and now we have an entire generation, of Iraqis who is living the poverty caused by such an embargo, and the spread of diseases that was brought by that embargo.

Her next recommendation,

"Avoid showing respect, or admiration, for the violent feats of the fundamentalists, extremists and terrorists."

And then look at what she says,

"Caste them as disturbed, and cowardly not as evil heroes "

Some times you would show respect for your enemy because of a certain quality that he holds, for example, the west could not hide their admiration for *Salahuddin*, his chivalry his courage! Throughout history we find that war has erupted between different nations and peoples, nevertheless, the enemy would show the other side some respect and some admiration. In particular eras they would say, for example "Yes it is true that these are our enemies but we need to speak the word of truth, they are courageous". "Yes it is true

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(24) Mujahideen- Holy Islamic fighters

that these are our enemies but nevertheless, they have a point" things like that.

According to Bernard, we are not supposed to show such an admiration, we should never even caste them as "evil heroes"! And then she specifically wanted them to be presented or caste as disturbed, and cowardly. And this "cowardly" thing, we have been hearing it again and again. And I am amazed to see that some Muslims, like parrots, are repeating this accusation, and praise is to *Allah*, I fail to understand how, the Israeli soldier wearing his bullet proof vest, and his steel helmet, cowering behind the pile of sand bags and still runs away from the stones thrown by Palestinian children is courageous! While the Palestinian children charging at the soldiers full speed, armed with nothing but rocks and wearing nothing but trousers and t-shirts are cowards! I fail to understand that!

And the American "heroic" soldiers, fighting from the comfort of their armored Bradlees and Strikers but nevertheless boiling inside layers of bullet proof gear in the boiling heat of the Iraqi summer, are "courageous" while the Iraqi Mujahideen armed with nothing but the light weapons of Guerilla war-fare are "cowards"!

And what I really fail to understand, is how can the martyr, the Shaheed, who willingly and happily, hands over his soul to *Allah*, who walks towards his faith, with pleasure, and faces death with a smile, what I fail to understand is how can you call such a person a "coward"!

But that is what they have been called. And that is what the parrots in the Muslim world have been repeating, that these peoples are cowards.

And then she goes on to say,

"Encourage journalists to investigate, issues of corruption, hypocrisy, and immorality, in fundamentalist and terrorist circles"

Well she could have also said, lets fake up such things against them, and take them to court and sentence them to ridiculous sentences in jail for such fake accusations! *Imam Jameel Ameen* in America was sentenced to life, because he was accused of killing a police officer!

Humeidan at Turki, the head of *al-Basheer* publications in Demver Colorado was sentenced to life, because he was accused of raping his servant!

And we could go on and on with a list of people whom the US government has faked against them false accusations just to liquidate them, and to get them out of the scene! Take for example, the story of Captain Yee, the Imam at Guantanamo. *Allah* knows what the reason was, even though he was a marine soldier, and is an employee and is with the US government, some how they didn't take a liking to him for one reason or another. So

they accused him in the beginning, of espionage, of passing over classified information to Syria! When that didn't hold up, praise is to *Allah*, what they accused him with? Of pornographic material on his laptop! And the crime is, that this laptop is government owned property so how could he have pornography on it! And they accused him of adultery, and they tried to ruin his family, and then in the end nothing held up so all of the charges against them were dropped!

In this article by US news and world report, says "*but individual CIA stations overseas are making some gusty and innovative moves, among them pouring money in to neutralizing militant anta US preachers and recruiters*" And then they say, "*If you found out, that Mullah Omar, is on one street corner doing this, you set up Mullah Bradley on the other street corner to counter it*".

Well, I wonder how many *Mullah* Bradlees they have in the Muslim world now!

And then she says
"Encourage divisions amongst fundamentalists"

Dear brothers and sisters we are not only victims, of US military and political aggression, but we are also victims of US lies!

They have been lying about our brothers, charging them with false accusations, until they put hatred of them in our hearts, and they have planted the seeds of disunity amongst us!

And now she is stating openly that we want to encourage divisions among fundamentalists!

Take for example, whenever an Islamic group tries to enforce the law of *Allah* Almighty, how they try to ruin their reputation! And unfortunately, this lie is believed by many Muslims! Because they are victims of this western media and US lies. We need to be aware! We need to be careful. And we shouldn't rely on their sources, when it comes to information about our Muslim brethren! Take the information from valid sources. *Allah* Almighty says



If a *Fasiq* -a corrupt Muslim! - Brings you information *fatabayyanu* (26)-you need to check- if this information is correct, what if the source is not a *Fasiq* but a *Kafir*? So we

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(25) Kafir- singular of Kuffar
(26) Surah Hujuraat, verse 26- "O ye who believe! If a sinner comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth..."

need to be very careful on what we hear!

For example, when the Taliban were ruling over Afghanistan, you heard a lot of things about them, there was a lot of lies about them in the media, this is so the Ummah would hate them, it is to try to plant the seeds of disunity among us.
And when the Islamic rule was applied in Somalia, what did they say about them too?
So Muslims, we need to be very careful.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullah

We talked about some of the recommendations that were in the Rand report and how to deal with this issue of separating between the modernists or the Rand Muslims, and the extremists or the real Muslims, true Muslims.

And these efforts have been going on since 9/11, not to say that there was nothing of this sort before, but 9/11 gave it some more importance, and as I mentioned to you from the US News and World report says "*after repeated missteps since the 9/11 attacks, the US government has embarked on a campaign of political warfare unmatched since the height of the cold war.*"

So the emphasis on this issue of "*The Battle of Ideas*" has been post 9/11.

So there is a good seven years now, of the US putting its intelligence resources, financial resources, human resources, into changing Islam, what are the results?

Brothers and sisters, if the British Empire, the greatest empire of its time, dominated the sea, the US military, in contrast, dominates at every level- land, sea, air and space!

The US spends more than the next 14 countries combined, accounting for almost 50% of global defense spending. And the US also spends more on defense research and development than the rest of world put together!

So the US, the strongest force of our time, whose army is spanning the globe, is spending millions into this effort nevertheless it still cannot defeat the true Muslims and can still not win in this war of ideas!

In an article, in the Washington Post, *Shibli Talhami*, a member of a White house appointed advisory group and public diplomacy and Brookings institute scholar, said "*Its worst than failure. Failing means you tried and didn't get better but at this point, three years after September 11 you can say that there wasn't even much of an attempt and today Arab and Muslim attitudes towards the US and the degree of distrust in the US are far worse than they were 3 years ago, Bin Laden is winning by default!*"

So they are failing, and Miss Bernard and her cronies at Rand and Pentagon should know that their plan would fail because Allah is the best of planners! And that the fundamentalists and extremists, whom they despise, are not only going to win in Afghanistan and Iraq, but they will continue their march, until they drag your people, the Jews, out of the Holy Land and plant their black banners on the roof tops of Jerusalem. Their efforts are a failure and Allah Almighty says,

{ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْ يُنفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ لِيَصُدُّواْ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَسَيُنفِقُونَهَا ثُمَّ تَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ حَسْرَةً ثُمَّ يُغْلَبُونَ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْ إِلَى جَهَنَّمَ يُحْشَرُونَ }

"Surely those who disbelieve, spend their wealth to hinder people away from the path of Allah, so they shall spend it, and then it shall be to them an intense regret, then, they shall be over come and those who disbelieve, shall be driven together to Hell". (27)

They will spend millions of dollars, and it will be fruitless! And then in the end they will lose, and then after that they will be in Hell-Fire!

The results in the realm of ideas, is more important brothers and sisters, it is more important than the victories, of the Mujahideen in the battlefields. It is more important to talk about the methodology that they carry. Because when Allah Almighty talked about the people of the Trench in *Surah al Burooj*, they didn't win in the battlefield, they lost, and they were killed. The king, dug for them trenches and they were burnt alive. But because they held on fast to the truth, because they were steadfast, Allah Almighty said,


ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْكَبِيرُ

"That is the great victory".

So we should be more concerned, about what is in the hearts and minds of Muslims rather than what happens on the battlefield!

In this area, brothers and sister, praise is to Allah, even though it is true, that many Muslims might be deceived by this plan of the US, there were many Muslims who were asleep before, are probably by now they could be declared brain dead, but on the other hand, it is amazing to see the revival, specially among the youth. The clarity of thought and the maturity of understanding that we find in some youth today is amazing!

Specially, if you talk about some youth in the West, who are second or third generation Muslims, they are carrying on to clear understanding of Islam! It's amazing to see that! It

(27) (Surah Anfal 36)


يُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَيِّتِ

"Allah Almighty brings life out of death"

These are living in the Den of the Lion, they are subjected, they are the first line of defense in this war of ideas and they are subjected to the brunt of it! Nevertheless, they are holding on to the truth!

The understanding that they have, of their responsibility as Muslims, and their willingness, to fulfill these duties, their understanding of *Wala' and Bara' (28)*, their understanding of the importance of establishing the rule of Allah on earth, and establishing the Islamic Khilafah, all of this is amazing to see! How many Muslims are waking up, from their sleep, and in other areas other than the area of ideas and also including the areas of hearts and minds, we find that, praise is to Allah,

اذا اراد الله شيئا هيّء له اسبابه

"If Allah Almighty wants a thing, then he will provide for it the means".

We find that the US has fell into blunders that are amazing! For example, this invasion, this American invasion of Iraq, is a total disaster for the US.

A US foreign service officer, states that this "*series of outcomes makes Bush's invasion of Iraq a fiasco without parallel in American foreign policy since Vietnam, and the end is not in sight*". That's right! The end is not in sight! You have only seen the beginning!

And we find out that now seven years after 9/11, there are Muslims who are on *Al Haq* in Afghanistan, there are Muslims who are on *Al Haq* in Iraq, there are Muslims who are on *Al Haq* in Chechnya, there are Muslims who are on *Al Haq* in Palestine, there are Muslims who are on *Al Haq* in Somalia. That wasn't the case prior to September 11; things are improving for the Muslims.

Bush's invasion of Iraq, what has it brought?! It brought with it an establishment, of the new plies of an Islamic state, an unintentional outcome, in fact this is exactly what they wanted to prevent form happening! Because of their mislead action, in fact, it is a trap set by Allah Almighty, because America of today is the Pharaoh of yesterday. And for every Pharaoh their will be a *Musa (29)*, and just as Pharaoh calculated his steps and planned his moves, nevertheless, he would commit fatal mistakes, because Allah Almighty wanted to give *Musa* and the people of *Bani Israel* victory! We are seeing the

(28) Wala and Bara- Allegiance and acquittal
(29) Musa (Peace be upon him)- Moses

same thing happening today with America, they have dug for themselves a hole and fell into it, and they are unable to get out!

A recent event is the announcement of the establishment of an Islamic State in Iraq, in Baghdad- the capital of the longest serving Islamic *Khilafah (30)*, of the descendents of *al Abbas*, the uncle of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). We know that Baghdad was established by the *Abbasids- the Abbasid Khilafah*, and they made Baghdad their capitol, and it served as the capitol for few centuries, a period of enlightenment and civilization in the Muslim world. Baghdad at that time was the greatest city in the World. So the announcement of the establishment of an Islamic State in Iraq, in Baghdad, the capital, of the *Abbasid Khilafah*, with the current head of that state being a descendant, of *Hussein bin Ali* (31) carries a lot of importance.

It is a matter, which has either passed the West or they are intentionally trying to ignore it.

Now whether this State survives to expand into the next *Muslim Khilafah* or is destroyed by the immense conspiracy against the rise of any Islamic State, I believe this to be a monumental event. Now we are not going to hang our hopes on anyone or anything, that's not the way of Muslims. Because Muslims, generation after generation, they come and go. I mean that the fate of Islam didn't even depend on the life of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) when the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) passed away *Abu Bakr as Siddiq* (may Allah be pleased with him) told the Muslims,

وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلاَّ رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ من قَبْله الرُّسُلُ أَفإِنْ مَّاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَى أَعْقَابكُمْ

"If Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) dies or is killed are you gonna retreat back, are you going to leave your religion?"(32)

So now when I am talking about this Islamic state I am saying that we don't know about its future, it could expand or it could be crushed. However, the declaration of it in it self, is an important event. And many Muslims unfortunately are not aware, of the importance of this event, whether it succeeds or not, it represents a move of the idea, from the theoretical realm to the real world. The idea of establishing the Islamic rule and establishing *Khilafah* on earth, now is not any more a talk, it is action! And it is a reflection of the fact that this time, the *Mujahideen* are not going to do the work and fight the fight only to let some one else bear the fruit of their effort. But that their intention is not only to drive out the invaders from their lands just to have a hypocrite filled in his

(30) Khilafah- Caliphate
(31) Descendant of Hussein bin Ali- refers to descendant of the Prophet (peace be upon him)
(32) Surah Al-Imran 144

place, but they posses, a project of an Islamic state followed by the return of the system of *Khilafah*!

Brothers and sisters, we are inching forward to the final stage of the hadith of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

ستكون خلافة على منهاج النبوه

"Finally it will be Khilafah on the path of Prophet hood"(33)

Now the Americans have been mum about this Islamic state in Iraq. They have studied the concept of *Khilafah*, and they realize the vitality of it, and they realize the danger it poses to them and to their imperial agenda. So if the majority of Muslims today are deep asleep with their eyes shut and their ears stuffed why turn their attention to it! Thus they are trying their best to keep the news of it shut, even though they are the with first hand knowledge of it, due to the US military being in direct contact with the forces of the State. In fact they are going as far as claiming as the Head of this State as a fictitious figure. Now the Islamic state in Iraq is stating that they are fighting a combined force of a one million strong nevertheless they are still holding firm.

This idea of *Khilafah* is picking up steam in the West because now they see the danger of it; they see that the Muslims are going towards that goal of establishing the Islamic State again so we find out that there is newfound interest in it. For some time they forgot about that idea or they kept it on the backburner but suddenly they are all talking about it.

For example, Bush he said in October 2005, "*the militants believe that controlling one country will rally the Muslim masses enabling them to overthrow all moderate governments in the region and establish a radical Islamic Empire that spans from Spain to Indonesia* ". He even mentions Spain coz he knows about *al-Andalus (34).*

And on September 5th 2006 he said, "*This caliphate would be a totalitarian Islamic Empire encompassing all current and former Muslim lands stretching from Europe to North Africa, the Middle-East and South-East Asia* " and then he said "*we know this because al-Qaeda has told us*" these are the words of Bush.

Donald Rumsfield said, "*Iraq would serve as the base of the new Islamic Caliphate to extend throughout the Middle-East and which would threaten the legitimate governments in Europe and Africa and Asia. This is their plan! They have said so! We make a terrible mistake if we fail to listen and learn*".

Tony Blair, he referred to the need to confront an evil ideology that included "*the establishment of effectively Taliban states and Sharia law in the Arab world in route to*

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(33) Narrated by Numan Bin Basheer, Musnad Ahmad
(34) Andalus-Islamic Spain

the one Caliphate of all Muslim nations".

And finally we have statements form General David Patrious, after this recent surge in US troops in Iraq. He was trying to justify why we have demanded more troops, he said "*it is to disrupt al-Qaeda in its ability to conduct sensational attacks and to try to continue that cycle of violence which they have been trying to do all along. In addition, they are attempting to try to establish a real al-Qaeda sanctuary in Iraq, a Caliphate* ".

So now all these people are talking about, *al-Khilafah* because they see it as a real threat, something that is turning in from an idea to a reality!

So brothers and sisters, Yes, we should stand up and defend our religion against this arrogant interference!

Yes, we should stand up and declare the truth and fight for the truth, but we should also be confident that no matter what the enemies of Allah do, victory is on the side of the Muslims. Because in the hadith *al-Qudsi* Allah Almighty says,

من عادى لي وليا فقد آذنته بلحرب

"Who ever takes, my Awliya', my friends as enemies, then I will wage war against them"(35)

America has taken the *Awliya'* of Allah as enemies; therefore they will be fighting Allah Almighty. And the result and outcome is known!

But how are we to counter that? Yes, the religion of Allah will be victorious but we want to have a part in that, we want to share in reward! We don't want to be sitting on the sidelines and watching as spectators!

If the US is openly stating unashamed that it is bent on distorting Islam then it is our duty to step up our efforts in defending our religion from this distortion. **We should, brothers and sisters, present the Islamic point of view on the contested issues**, we should speak clearly and loudly about our view concerning the Islamic State, our view concerning the dominance and the rule of Allah Almighty over the Land, our view concerning Khilafah. We should speak out our view concerning democracy, and how it is classified in Islam, as an un-Islamic system! We should speak about the Islamic alternative of *Shura*, and what it represents. We should talk about our view concerning *Hudood*, the criminal law, in Islam we should speak about issues such as polygamy, such as women's rights such as human rights, where do we stand, regarding these issues, what is our positions? We should speak unapologetically and honestly about these issues and make it clear for the Muslim masses lest they are deceived by this agenda of the West.

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(35) Bukhari :: Book 8 :: Volume 76 :: Hadith 509

Number two,
We should be ware of anything American!
They are willing to use everything in their arsenal for their ulterior motives! This article, US News and World report states that "*among the ideas using music, comics, poetry, and the Internet to get across America's view to the Arab world*". They can use everything, so we need to be very careful!

Number three,
If these people at Rand have said that they want to discredit the true Muslims and want to suppress the *Haq* that they posses and that they want to, as she states over here, "*encouraging journalists to investigate issues of corruption hypocrisy and immorality in fundamentalists and extremists circles*" and the Defense Department's quadrennial defense review report, says that "*we want to discredit the extremists ideologies*".

It becomes our duty to promote the scholars and the *Da'es (36)* who are speaking the truth! If they want to discredit them then we want to promote them. If they want to suppress the truth that they speak, we want this truth to prevail we want it to spread. And it becomes a duty on every Muslim because, remember you are standing in front of a very resourceful nation and it is heading a coalition of other nations and Allah Almighty says



"Prepare for them"

So it is our duty just as they are intending to change our religion and promote falsehood and to turn us to Rand Muslims, we need to promote *Al Haq*.

Number four,
We need to spread out the material of *al-Haq*. Anything that promotes the truth we should promote it, we should spread it out, and we should spend from our wealth in this effort.

Number five,
We should practice the Jihad of the word and Jihad of wealth. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) says

جاهدو المشركين بانفسكم و اموالكم و السنتكم

"Wage jihad against the disbelievers with your self, and with your wealth, and with your word"

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(36) Daes- preachers

And spreading *Al Haq* is a form, this Jihad in the path of Allah.

And finally brothers and sisters,

We should develop the awareness of the Muslims of their true identity. If they are trying to attach us to our pre-Islamic past, we should spread out information about our history, about who we are! And we should also establish the concept of Ummah, that we are part of an Ummah, and this needs to go beyond the nation state and the nationalism that exists in the world today or the tribalism that existed in the world yesterday!

We should look at our selves' as one nation. Different colors, different races, different languages, but we are one Ummah and this should take precedence to any other association that we have!

So brothers and sisters, we should not take it for granted that since Allah Almighty is going to give victory to the Ummah that we don't have to do our part. NO, we should stand up and do our part if we want to be part of the *Ta'ifah-al-Mansurah*, the Saved sect the *Firqah- an-Najiyah*, because now the *Bida' (37)* are not going to be spread by limited resourced groups, but are going to be funded by the US government and their allies. So now in this battle of ideas and it is the responsibility of the people of *Haq*, no matter how few they are, to present the truth to the World!

(37) Bida'- innovation

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